

Appl. No. 10/688,390
Amdt. dated April 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2006

Docket No. 70288-020800

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A snap together panel connection system comprising:

a first panel and a second panel each with an edge and at least two corners;
a latch and a catch located near each corner, said catch with elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and said latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of ~~[[the]]~~ said slot walls, wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an adjacent panel in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said catch ~~the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch~~ and wherein said catch and said latch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said edge~~[[,]]~~; and

a straight connector with at least one latch and at least one catch, said catch with elongated deformable slot walls and said latch with an elongated enlarged head extending, through which ~~[[the]]~~ said latch of ~~[[the]]~~ said first panel is snapped into ~~[[the]]~~ said catch of ~~[[the]]~~ said straight connector and ~~[[the]]~~ said latch of the straight connector is snapped into~~[[the]]~~ said catch of ~~[[the]]~~ said second panel, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other, through which said straight connector is a bridge between ~~[[the]]~~ said panels.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one alignment stop to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A snap together connection comprising:

two elements each having at least one latch and catch,
each said catch with elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each said latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of ~~[[the]]~~ said slot walls; wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an

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adjacent element in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said catch
~~catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch; and,~~

a straight connector with at least one latch and catch, said catch with elongated deformable slot walls and said latch with an elongated enlarged head through which said elements are each element is connected to ~~[[the]]~~ said straight connector by snapping with a latch or catch of each element ~~snapped into~~ ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding latch or catch of ~~[[the]]~~ said straight connector, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other, through which said straight connector is a bridge between ~~[[the]]~~ said elements.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 further comprising at least one stop to limit sliding movement of at least one snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein each panel is substantially the same size and shape.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein at least one panel is not substantially the same size and shape as the other panel.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 wherein at least one element is a panel.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 7 wherein said panel is substantially the same size and shape.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 wherein at least one element is a selected from the group consisting of a metal frame, a wood frame, a rattan frame, a rattan grid, a wicker grid, a wicker frame, a metal sheet, cardboard, foam, fiberboard, laminate, wood and a metal grid panel.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A snap together panel connection system comprising:

a first panel and a second panel each with an edge and two corners, said first panel and said second panel affixed to a corner cover at each of said two corners; a latch and a catch located near each corner cover, said catch with elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and said latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of ~~[[the]]~~ said slot walls wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an adjacent panel in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said catch ~~each is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch wherein said catch and latch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said edge;~~

a straight connector with one latch and one catch, said catch with elongated deformable slot walls and said latch with an elongated enlarged head extending, through which ~~[[the]]~~ said latch of the first panel panel's corner cover is snapped into ~~[[the]]~~ said catch of ~~[[the]]~~ said straight connector and ~~[[the]]~~ said latch of ~~[[the]]~~ said straight connector is snapped into ~~[[the]]~~ said catch of the second panel panel's corner cover, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other, through which said straight connector is a bridge between said panels.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The connection system of claim 10 further comprising at least one alignment stop to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A snap together connection comprising:

two elements each connected to at least two panel covers, each panel cover having a latch and a catch, each catch with ~~[[a]]~~ elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an adjacent panel cover in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said

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~~catch~~ ~~catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch,~~ the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other; and

a straight connector having at least a latch and a catch, said catch with a elongated deformable slot walls and said catch with an elongated enlarged head, through which ~~[[a]]~~ said straight connector forms a bridge between ~~[[the]]~~ said panel covers.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 12 wherein the elements are panels.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 12 wherein the elements are frames.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A snap together connection comprising:

a first connector having a latch and a catch pair located on an end of said first connector, each said catch with ~~[[a]]~~ elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each said latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said at least one end, wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an adjacent connector in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said catch ~~the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch,~~ the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other;

a second connector having a latch and a catch pair located on an end of said second connector, each said catch with ~~[[a]]~~ elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back

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and each said latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said at least one end, wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an adjacent connector in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said catch, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other ~~the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch;~~ and

a straight connector having at least a latch and a catch, said catch with ~~[[a]]~~ elongated deformable slot walls and said catch with an elongated enlarged head, each said catch with ~~[[a]]~~ elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls, through which ~~[[a]]~~ said straight connector forms a bridge between said first connector and said second connector in which each connector is connected to the straight connector with ~~[[a]]~~ said latch or catch of each connector snapped into the corresponding latch or catch of ~~[[the]]~~ said straight connector.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A snap together connection comprising:

a first connector having a latch and a catch pair supported on said first connector, each said catch with ~~[[a]]~~ elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each said latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of ~~[[the]]~~ said slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said connector, wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an adjacent connector in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said catch, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other; ~~the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch;~~

a second connector having a latch and a catch pair supported on said second connector, each said catch with ~~[[a]]~~ elongated deformable slot walls having a length and

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being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each said latch with an elongated enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of [[the]] said slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said connector, wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement with a latch of an adjacent connector in the transverse direction of said elongated deformable slot walls of said catch, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other; and the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch; and

a straight connector having at least a latch and a catch, said catch with [[a]] elongated deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and said catch latch with an elongated enlarged head, ~~each said catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged~~ head having a length substantially similar as the length of [[the]] said slot walls, through which [[a]] said straight connector forms a bridge between said first connector and said second connector in which each connector is connected to [[the]] said straight connector ~~with~~ by snapping a latch or catch of each connector snapped into the corresponding latch or catch of [[the]] said straight connector.